

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 25 to 35 without prejudice and add new claims 47 and 48 as follows:

Claims 1 to 35. (canceled)

36. (previously presented) In a method of preserving a perishable cosmetic preparation, the improvement comprising adding from 0.1 to 25 percent by weight of bioactive glass particles with particles sizes (d_{50}) up to about 1 mm to said perishable cosmetic preparation, so that upon contact with an aqueous medium said bioactive glass particles form a hydroxyapatite layer on surfaces of said bioactive glass particles and said bioactive glass particles thus provide antimicrobial action in said perishable cosmetic preparation because of the presence of said hydroxyapatite layer; and

in which said bioactive glass particles contain calcium and phosphorus in relative amounts that are sufficient for formation of said hydroxyapatite layer on contact with said aqueous medium.

37. (previously presented) The improvement as defined in claim 36, wherein said bioactive glass particles consist of from 40 to 60 percent by weight SiO_2 , from 10 to 30 percent by weight CaO , from 10 to 35 percent by weight Na_2O , from 2 to 8 percent by weight P_2O_5 , from 0 to 25 percent by weight of CaF_2 , from 0 to 10 percent by weight B_2O_3 , from 0 to 8 percent by weight of K_2O , and from 0 to 5

percent by weight MgO.

38. (previously presented) The improvement as defined in claim 36, wherein said bioactive glass particles consist of from 40 to 90 percent by weight SiO₂, from 4 to 45 percent by weight CaO, from 0 to 10 percent by weight Na₂O, from 2 to 16 percent by weight P₂O₅, from 0 to 25 percent by weight of CaF₂, from 0 to 4 percent by weight B₂O₃, from 0 to 8 percent by weight of K₂O, and from 0 to 5 percent by weight MgO.

39. (previously presented) The improvement as defined in claim 36, wherein said particles sizes (d₅₀) of said bioactive glass particles are less than or equal to 100 μ m and said cosmetic composition contains from 1 percent by weight to 10 percent by weight of said bioactive glass particles.

40. (previously presented) The improvement as defined in claim 36, wherein said perishable cosmetic composition contains an aqueous solvent or an alcoholic solvent.

41. (previously presented) In a perishable cosmetic preparation, the improvement comprising including from 0.1 to 25 percent by weight of bioactive glass particles with particles sizes (d₅₀) up to about 1 mm in said perishable cosmetic preparation, so that upon contact with an aqueous medium said bioactive glass particles form a hydroxyapatite layer on surfaces of said bioactive glass particles

and said bioactive glass particles thus provide antimicrobial action in said perishable cosmetic preparation due to the presence of said hydroxyapatite layer; and

in which said bioactive glass particles contain calcium and phosphorus in relative amounts that are sufficient for formation of said hydroxyapatite layer on contact with said aqueous medium.

42. (previously presented) The improvement as defined in claim 41 and further comprising not including skin-irritating chemical preservatives or allergenic chemical preservatives in said perishable cosmetic preparation.

43. (previously presented) The improvement as defined in claim 41, wherein said bioactive glass particles consist of from 40 to 60 percent by weight SiO₂, from 10 to 30 percent by weight CaO, from 10 to 35 percent by weight Na₂O, from 2 to 8 percent by weight P₂O₅, from 0 to 25 percent by weight of CaF₂, from 0 to 10 percent by weight B₂O₃, from 0 to 8 percent by weight of K₂O, and from 0 to 5 percent by weight MgO.

44. (previously presented) The improvement as defined in claim 41, wherein said bioactive glass particles consist of from 40 to 90 percent by weight SiO₂, from 4 to 45 percent by weight CaO, from 0 to 10 percent by weight Na₂O, from 2 to 16 percent by weight P₂O₅, from 0 to 25 percent by weight of CaF₂, from 0 to 4 percent by weight B₂O₃, from 0 to 8 percent by weight of K₂O, and from 0 to 5

percent by weight MgO.

45. (previously presented) The improvement as defined in claim 41, wherein said particles sizes (d_{50}) of said bioactive glass particles are less than or equal to 100 μm and said cosmetic composition contains from 1 percent by weight to 10 percent by weight of said bioactive glass particles.

46. (previously presented) The improvement as defined in claim 41, wherein said perishable cosmetic composition contains an aqueous solvent or an alcoholic solvent.

47. (new) The improvement as defined in claim 36, wherein said particles sizes (d_{50}) are less than or equal to 10 μm .

48. (new) The improvement as defined in claim 41, wherein said particles sizes (d_{50}) are less than or equal to 10 μm .